



# Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 April 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

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## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports that the inconsistent quality of natural gas is raising safety and reliability concerns among industry officials. (See item [3](#))
- The Washington Times reports that according to water-purification experts cities nationwide risk lead in their water supply unless they replace old pipelines. (See item [19](#))
- The Associated Press reports federal authorities say they managed to pierce the murky underworld of Internet spam e-mails, filing the first criminal charges under the government's new "can spam" legislation. (See item [27](#))

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. ***April 29, Reuters*** — **Senate fails to resurrect stalled energy bill.** The U.S. Senate failed on Thursday, April 29, to resurrect stalled energy legislation, with votes falling short to back a doubling in U.S. ethanol use or push for a much broader package of energy reforms. Legislation to carry out the first overhaul of U.S. energy policy in more than a decade has been bogged down in the Senate for months, and time is running out to move major legislation before the congressional and presidential campaign season. After two procedural votes, senators were unable to get the energy bill, or at least the popular section on ethanol use, back on track for prompt consideration. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist supported more ethanol production,

but said it should be part of a bigger energy bill that also modernizes the nation's electric grid, backs an Alaskan natural gas pipeline and promotes renewable energy sources. "We should not break apart the energy bill and attempt to pass it piecemeal," said Frist. "We in the United States need a comprehensive energy policy."

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20040429\\_377.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20040429_377.html)

2. *April 29, Associated Press* — **OPEC likely to discuss price band hike. Ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are likely to discuss a possible increase in their targeted prices for crude when they meet next in June, Qatar's oil minister said Thursday, April 29. Calls from within OPEC for higher price targets have provoked consternation among industrialized countries and a warning from the Paris-based International Energy Agency that such a move would hurt the global economy.** Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah bin Hamed al-Attiyah acknowledged there were suggestions to raise OPEC's targeted prices from their current range. Al-Attiyah said he was not yet aware of any formal proposal to increase the targets at OPEC's June 3 ministerial meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, but he added that oil ministers were likely to discuss the idea. Under OPEC's price band mechanism, members are supposed to cut output if oil prices dip below \$22 a barrel for 10 consecutive trading days. They have pledged to boost production if prices exceed \$28 a barrel for 20 consecutive trading days. In reality, OPEC members have ignored the mechanism whenever it suits them. OPEC has so far held back from increasing supply even though prices have remained consistently above the targeted range since December 5.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/apbiz\\_story.asp?category=1310&slug=OPEC%20Price%20Hike](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/apbiz_story.asp?category=1310&slug=OPEC%20Price%20Hike)

3. *April 29, Associated Press* — **Inconsistent quality of natural gas raises safety and reliability concerns.** It used to be that natural gas producers would strip out traces of propane and butane before piping the desired fuel — primarily methane — to power plants and utilities. The impurities were actually worth more than the natural gas itself, so collecting them gave producers a nice side business. **However, currently with gas supplies tight and valued at twice their historical average, many producers want to pump as much as they can — impurities included. The result is a fuel cocktail that many power plants and home appliances weren't designed to handle, presenting a number of safety, environmental and reliability concerns.** Industry officials frustrated by the increasingly inconsistent quality of natural gas have warned federal regulators about potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide emissions in homes, increased pollution from power plants and needless wear and tear on gas turbines and home appliances. Several industry officials said it is too soon to know just how widespread and severe the problems may be. However, around the country power producers and utilities are facing higher maintenance costs and have, at times, been forced to cut off service to clean equipment.

Source: [http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?/newsflash/get\\_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory\\_ssf.cgi?f0169\\_BC\\_NaturalGas-QualityCon&&news&newsflash-financial](http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?f0169_BC_NaturalGas-QualityCon&&news&newsflash-financial)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *April 29, Associated Press* — **If asked to send more soldiers to Iraq, the Army would have to dig deep. It's not yet certain that U.S. commanders in Iraq will ask for more troops beyond the 135,000 there now, but if they do, the Army would have to resort to extreme measures to answer the call. Of the service's 10 active-duty divisions, all or parts of nine are either already in Iraq to serve 12-month tours of duty, or have just returned home in recent weeks after a year's duty.** If more troops are needed, soldiers may get less time at home before going back, one top general says. The Army might also have to consider sending troops who help defend South Korea against North Korea. National Guard and Reserve combat forces would simply take too long to train. It would even be difficult to keep the force at the current level beyond June or so, when 20,000 soldiers whose yearlong Iraq tours were extended by three months are due to go home. Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, the Army deputy chief of staff for operations, said if extra troops are needed, the Army would have to abandon its goal of allowing soldiers at least one full year at their home station before returning to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/dailynews/120/wash/If\\_asked\\_to\\_send\\_more\\_soldiers:.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailynews/120/wash/If_asked_to_send_more_soldiers:.shtml)

5. *April 29, Associated Press* — **Navy Seals to get training centers. The Navy plans to build a pair of multimillion-dollar training centers for its elite Sea, Air, Land (SEALs) commandos based at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach, VA.** While plans are still on the drawing board, officials expect to award a construction bid this spring for the first phase—a \$5.2 million, three-story training center on how to storm buildings using real explosives and hunt down the enemy hidden inside 6,000 square feet of individual rooms. Lined with bulletproof steel walls and outfitted with removable walls, the Close Quarters Combat Trainer could be ready for SEAL training as early as August 2005, said Lt. Cmdr. William W. Anderson Jr., chief engineer for Naval Special Warfare Group Two at Little Creek, VA. The Navy has eight SEAL teams and 2,450 individual SEALs, about half of them based at Little Creek. **Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has increasingly called on SEALs and other special operations forces to man the front lines of conflicts around the world, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, training facilities have been tough to secure.**

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-sou--sealtraining0429apr29.0.5896229.story?coll=dp-headlines-virginia>

6. *April 29, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-670T: Reserve Forces: Observations on Recent National Guard Use in Overseas and Homeland Missions and Future Challenges (Testimony).** As a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and launch of the Global War on Terrorism, the National Guard has experienced the largest activation of its forces since World War II. The Guard consists of 350,000 Army Guard soldiers and 107,000 Air Guard members. With its unique dual status, it performs state missions under the governor and federal missions at home and overseas under the President. Since September 11, the Guard's missions have expanded, raising concerns about its ability to simultaneously perform all of these functions. The Department of Defense (DoD) funds the Army Guard for partial readiness to

accomplish mission requirements, and in contrast, the Air Guard is funded to be an operational reserve ready on short notice. **This testimony addresses the General Accounting Office's (GAO) observations on (1) the extent and purpose of the National Guard's use since September 11, (2) the effects of that use on Guard forces' readiness for future missions, and (3) the challenges that DoD, the states, and Congress face in organizing and equipping the Guard to support both overseas and homeland missions.** Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04670thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04670t.pdf>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *April 29, Click2houston.com* — **Possible real estate scam lands mother, daughter in jail.** A mother and daughter possibly carrying out a real estate scam to steal properties and identities will hear the charges they face in a Houston, TX, courtroom. **According to investigators, Katherine and Maureen McGovern reportedly posed as potential homebuyers in order to steal credit cards, checkbooks, keys and other personal items from realtors showing the property or the home itself.** A tip from a Houston Association of Realtors (HAR) member led to the women's arrest. The Houston Police Department took the pair into custody Tuesday, April 27. "Safety is a primary issue and concern in our industry. The identity thefts are one example of the need for our members to adhere to the safety guidelines we provide for them," HAR Chairman Ted C. Jones, Ph.D, said.

Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/3249857/detail.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *April 29, Associated Press* — **Airlines oppose paying more for security.** The government wants \$435 million more from the airline industry for passenger screening, but the airlines said Wednesday, April 28, they don't think they should have to pay it. Air Transport Association President James May said the carriers already give the government about \$2 billion every year to prevent terrorist attacks. **May said financially struggling airlines can't pass new taxes onto passengers because of intense competition. The \$435 million could mean the difference between the industry breaking even and losing money this year, he said.** Air carriers now tack a \$2.50 security tax onto passenger tickets, which amounts to about \$1.6 billion that goes to the government annually. Airlines are also assessed \$315 million every year for passenger screening, a responsibility the government assumed from the airlines soon after the September 11 attacks.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/04/29/airlines.security.ap/index.html>

9. *April 29, PRNewswire* — **ATA airlines begins new service between New York–LaGuardia and St. Petersburg–Clearwater.** Beginning May 1, New York–based travelers will have a new, low–fare option when flying to the Tampa/St. Petersburg, Fla. area, recognized as one of New Yorkers' Top 10 favorite destinations in the country. ATA is the number one

low-cost carrier at St. Petersburg–Clearwater International, perhaps Florida's most easily accessible airport and centrally located between the metropolitan areas of Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, and Tampa. With a keen focus on the business traveler as well as leisure travelers seeking more space and comfort, the carrier is launching Business Class service with system-wide availability by the fourth quarter of 2004. The new ATA Business Class will feature two-across all leather seating, wider seats, more legroom, priority boarding, and other upgraded amenities.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040429/deth031\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040429/deth031_1.html)

10. *April 29, Associated Press* — **Coast Guard orders taxi boat to reduce passengers. After a fatal water shuttle accident, on March 6, in the Inner Harbor, the U.S. Coast Guard has ordered the owner of Seaport Taxis to reduce maximum passenger loads by about 25 percent to make the boats safer.** And the Guard has directed the Living Classrooms Foundation to modify two of its pontoon boats by moving the floats farther apart to improve stability, said Lt. Joe DuFresne, chief of small passenger boat inspections for the Baltimore regional office. **The foundation has also taken the optional step of installing weather radios in each of its nine Seaport Taxis.** "As a result of the casualties, we wanted to make sure everything is done correctly and that we feel comfortable with the rest of the fleet," DuFresne said in an interview with The (Baltimore) Sun Wednesday, April 28. **Since the accident, the Seaport Taxi service has made several changes to operate more cautiously and monitor weather more closely. The shuttles have not been making their longest run, to Fort McHenry, in part because the pier at the fort is being repaired.** The Lady D was badly damaged and will no longer operate. And the foundation will take its sister ship, the Patricia P, off the water as well, Bond said. A third pontoon boat of the same size, the W.B. Morgan, will be limited to a shorter and more protected route, between Canton and Fells Point.

Source: <http://www.thewbalchannel.com/news/3249911/detail.html>

11. *April 29, Associated Press* — **Screeners still needed at Vegas airport. Some three hundred screeners needed to staff an additional seven security checkpoints under development at McCarran International Airport have yet to be hired — despite plans for the expansion to be finished within two months.** Clark County Deputy Director of Aviation — Rosemary Vassiliadis — says the airport has been assured by officials with the federal Transportation Security Administration that the additional screeners will be available. But a national cap of 45-thousand TSA screeners may make it difficult for the airport to staff the new positions. Jim Blair — TSA security director at McCarran — says the employee cap could be an issue when it comes to hiring the additional people needed for the new checkpoints. He says if McCarran doesn't get the new screeners, he hopes to juggle staff to open as many gates as possible during peak travel times.

Source: <http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=1826265&nav=15MVMhXZ>

12. *April 28, Department of Transportation* — **Mineta announces \$26.5 million to enhance capacity, reduce noise at Chicago Midway.** U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta on Wednesday, April 28, announced grants totaling \$26.5 million to enhance capacity at Chicago Midway International Airport while also minimizing the impact of aircraft noise on the surrounding community. **The grants will be used to improve the physical infrastructure of the airport as well as to provide sound insulation for nearby schools.** "Today's grants will help Midway Airport continue to expand and fuel economic growth in the Chicago area while



also reducing the impact of aircraft noise on school children,” Secretary Mineta said. “It’s a win-win for the people of Chicago.” Also announced today were grants to soundproof four Chicago schools that are impacted by noise from Midway Airport. The funds come from the Airport Improvement Program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot5904.htm>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *April 28, U.S Postal Service* — **Biohazard detection system deployment delayed.** During the pre-production phase of the Biohazard Detection System (BDS), 15 pilot sites around the country were chosen for their varied metropolitan and rural settings. These sites allowed us to calibrate the system and establish a baseline for future reference. Compared to the established baseline, we recently have experienced an increase in non-determinate results on several machines. **Due to inconclusive, or non-determinate, test results reported by BDS equipment already installed at several postal facilities, the Postal Service is temporarily delaying further deployment of these systems so we can address this issue.** For the Biohazard Detection System, an inconclusive test is called a "non-determinant." A non-determinant does not indicate a threat is suspected; it simply means the test result is inconclusive.

Source: <http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/welcome.htm>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

14. *April 29, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Vermont to require labels on GM seeds.** Vermont has become the first state to require the labeling of genetically modified (GM) seeds. **Under the law, signed Monday, April 26, by Governor James Douglas, seed growers must label seeds that are genetically modified or engineered after October 1. They also must report sales of such seeds in the state to the secretary of agriculture every January 15.** Lawmakers considered a range of options, including a moratorium on sale of the seeds. The labeling requirement was seen as a compromise that advocates of a moratorium hope to build on next year.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=24763](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24763)

15. *April 29, Agricultural Research Service* — **USDA participates in research effort against FMD.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials and scientists are hosting the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Global Research Alliance April 29 and April 30 to discuss collaborative research to develop better vaccines and antiviral agents against the virus that causes FMD. **USDA and the cooperating research organizations have formed the FMD Global Research Alliance to provide tools to countries affected with FMD to slow down the virus and to ensure that FMD-free countries do not have outbreaks of the disease.** The alliance includes the Pirbright Laboratory of the United Kingdom's Institute for Animal Health; the Australian

Animal Health Laboratory; Canada's National Center for Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory; and Kenya's International Livestock Research Institute. USDA researchers will work on developing a new vaccine against FMD and will lead the effort to identify antiviral compounds to quickly stop virus replication.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

16. *April 28, Associated Press* — **Virus–stricken shrimp concerns Hawaii. Despite measures taken to quarantine a virus at a Kauai, HI, shrimp farm, the disease could spread to native crustaceans and ultimately harm the reef ecosystem, state officials said.** The Hawaii Department of Agriculture quarantined the shrimp farm in Kekaha after white spot syndrome virus, which causes serious disease in crustaceans, was discovered earlier this month. The disease has been reported in Japan, China, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, and in Central and South America, agriculture officials said, but never before in Hawaii. Farm workers last week voluntarily began draining all 48 ponds into Kinikini Ditch, and burying 20 million dead shrimp. Some believe that may not be enough to stop the virus. James Foppoli, the state's veterinarian, said the problem is that the virus lives in water, and the farm has been draining its effluent for years into Kinikini Ditch, which runs into various streams and rivers before reaching the ocean. The virus could theoretically end up in Hawaii waters and harm native crustacean populations and, ultimately, reef ecosystems, Heacock said.

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040428\\_898.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040428_898.html)

17. *April 28, Agence France Presse* — **Japan to open new mad cow disease research lab. Japan has built a laboratory where healthy cattle will be infected with mad cow disease by being fed the brains of sick animals, in a bid to find early signs of the disease.** The \$65 million facility was built at the National Institute of Animal Health in Tsukuba City, northeast of Tokyo. "We hope to find out what kind of symptoms cows would show for a certain level of the accumulated prion or which levels of prion do not result in any signs," of mad cow disease, an agriculture ministry official said. The rogue protein is believed to cause mad cow disease. There is currently no way of confirming mad cow disease in a live animal. Japan reported the nation's first case of mad cow disease in September 2001 and has so far confirmed 11 cases.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=afp/20040428/hl\\_afp/madcow\\_japan\\_health\\_040428171014](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=afp/20040428/hl_afp/madcow_japan_health_040428171014)

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## **Food Sector**

18. *April 28, Dow Jones Newswires* — **USDA expects Japan to lift U.S. poultry ban in June.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann Veneman said Wednesday, April 28, she expects Japan to lift its ban on U.S. poultry by June because of a bilateral protocol that the countries share. **Veneman, in prepared testimony to the House Agriculture Committee, also stressed that she is optimistic that China and Hong Kong will soon ease restrictions on U.S. poultry.** These countries placed bans on U.S. poultry due to outbreaks of avian influenza early this year. After avian influenza was discovered in four U.S. states in February, about 25 countries banned imports of U.S. poultry entirely. Several others instituted bans on poultry from U.S. states with confirmed avian influenza cases. **Those countries that banned U.S. poultry entirely resulted in a loss of about one–third of the nation's export markets.**

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=24754](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24754)

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## **Water Sector**

19. *April 29, Washington Times* — **Water systems pose lead risk. Cities nationwide risk lead in their water supply unless they replace old pipelines, according to water-purification experts.** The nation's aging infrastructure is leaching lead from pipes in old buildings into municipal water supplies, creating a health hazard that is difficult for government to eliminate, said Ralph McCarter, spokesman for the National Rural Water Association. **A 1999 Environmental Protection Agency survey estimated the nation's drinking-water systems need repairs and upgrades of \$150 billion over 20 years.** All but about three percent of public pipelines containing lead have been replaced with nontoxic materials, according to the American Water Works Association. Nevertheless, some buildings built before 1986 are leaking lead into water systems as they age.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20040427-092746-2786r.htm>

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## **Public Health Sector**

20. *April 29, Reuters* — **China warns foreigners of SARS.** Two suspected Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) patients in Beijing were confirmed as having the disease on Thursday, April 29, and one was in critical condition, China's Health Ministry said. Several countries have put up their guard against the spread of SARS and China said it had notified foreign visitors that a Beijing disease control laboratory could be the source of the new outbreak. "Two suspected SARS patients in Beijing were confirmed as having SARS and one is critical," the Health Ministry said, adding that all confirmed cases were traceable to the same Beijing laboratory. Hundreds of people have been isolated for observation. **But as hundreds of millions of Chinese prepared to set off for the weeklong May Day holiday, the World Health Organization (WHO) said the threat was not great enough to require travelers to cancel their plans.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4982010>

21. *April 28, University of Rochester Medical Center* — **Researchers begin study to protect against anthrax. Scientists at the University of Rochester, in Rochester, NY, and 11 other cities around the nation are beginning tests of an experimental vaccine aimed at protecting people against anthrax, a rare disease that, like smallpox, has become more threatening with the emergence of bioterrorism.** Doctors and nurses across the country hope to enroll a total of 480 people, 40 people at each of 11 sites, by the end of May in the study funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). While an anthrax vaccine now exists and is used primarily to protect military personnel, it requires a cumbersome routine, six shots over 18 months with a booster shot every year thereafter, for the vaccine to confer protection. The current vaccine also causes a range of side effects. Scientists are trying to develop a vaccine that works faster, with fewer shots and no annual booster, with fewer side



effects. **The vaccine under study requires two shots four weeks apart. Participants in the study will be monitored for one year as nurses and doctors record side effects and check the ability of the vaccine to rouse an immune response.**

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-04/uorm-rbs042804.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-04/uorm-rbs042804.php)

22. *April 28, News—Medical Net* — **Nipah virus reported in Bangladesh. Wildlife Trust's Consortium for Conservation Medicine reports that the World Health Organization (WHO) has now confirmed two recent outbreaks in humans of deadly Nipah virus in Bangladesh.** The Consortium has been researching the origins of Nipah virus under a grant from the National Institutes of Health. Previously, Nipah virus has only been confirmed in Malaysia, where a 1999 outbreak killed an 40 percent of those infected. **WHO reports that in February 2004, an outbreak of Nipah virus spread across six districts of Bangladesh and claimed 17 human deaths out of 23 cases, a mortality rate of 74 percent. A second outbreak in the Faridpur district killed 18 of a total 30 cases, a 60 percent mortality rate.** In Malaysia, the 1999 outbreak has been attributed to fruit bats finding new sources of food in fruit trees planted on one of Malaysia's largest pig farms. The pigs most likely became infected by eating infected fruit dropped into the pig stalls by bats from overhanging trees, and then passed the infection on to humans. This year in Bangladesh, giant fruit bats are also suspected to be the reservoir for Nipah virus.

Source: [http://www.news-medical.net/view\\_article.asp?id=983](http://www.news-medical.net/view_article.asp?id=983)

23. *April 28, Telegraph (United Kingdom)* — **Designer proteins conquer vCJD.** As the UK Department of Health prepares to tighten rules for the quarantine of surgical instruments because of fears about spreading variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (vCJD), human mad cow disease, scientists have unveiled a new decontamination method. A designer protein that "eats" the abnormal prions that cause mad cow disease and vCJD has been developed at the Health Protection Agency (HPA). **The designer protein offers a powerful new way to decontaminate instruments which may also be used to clean up abattoirs and help dispose of potentially contaminated material from cattle by digesting it in tanks.** The scientists began with the enzyme Properase, developed as a biological detergent to wash stains such as blood and grass. Properase is a protease, an enzyme that breaks down other proteins. Using protein engineering, where genetically modified bacteria are used to make variants of the protein, scientists altered its design, selecting variants that were best at targeting and inactivating the prion molecule that causes mad cow disease and vCJD. Properase could cut prion levels 1,000 fold.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/connected/main.jhtml?xml=/connected/2004/04/28/ecfcjd28.xml&sSheet=/connected/2004/04/28/ixconn.html>

24. *April 28, General Accounting Office* — **GAO–4–564: Asian SARS Outbreak Challenged International and National Responses (Report).** The General Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to examine the roles of the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. government, and Asian governments in responding to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). **The GAO found WHO implemented extensive actions to respond to SARS, but its response was delayed by an initial lack of cooperation from officials in China and challenged by limited resources for infectious disease control.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tried to contact passengers from flights and ships on which a traveler was diagnosed with SARS after arriving in the United States. These efforts were hampered by airline concerns and

procedural issues. The U.S. State Department encountered multiple difficulties when it tried to arrange medical evacuations for U.S. citizens infected with SARS overseas. GAO recommends that the Secretaries of Health and Human Services (HHS) and State work with WHO and other member states to strengthen WHO's global infectious disease network. GAO also recommends the the Secretary of HHS complete steps to ensure that the agency can obtain passenger contact information in a timely matter.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-564>

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## **Government Sector**

25. *April 29, Government Executive Magazine* — **Homeland Security to merge offices aiding states.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge will soon announce a merger of offices that aid state and local governments in an effort to better administer billions of dollars in grants to first responders, officials said Wednesday. **The department will consolidate the Office of Domestic Preparedness and the Office of State and Local Government Coordination into a new Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, ODP Director Suzanne Mencer told House lawmakers.** "The consolidation will enable the department to evaluate programs more accurately, exercise greater federal oversight, and ensure that government-provided resources are dispersed quickly and used to maximum efficiency," she said. "This decision will benefit states and localities by providing them with a unified and coordinated means of assistance and support." The merger will provide a "one-stop shop" for state and local governments to access grants by placing 25 state and local assistance programs and initiatives into a single office. It is expected to eliminate duplication and link funding to strategic plans that states recently submitted to DHS.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/042804c1.htm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

26. *April 29, East Brunswick Sentinel (NJ)* — **Facility will enhance firefighter training.** Middlesex County officials are pursuing the construction of a building where firefighters can be trained to battle blazes inside strip malls and other structures that are common in Middlesex County, NJ. The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted recently to authorize the bid process for the 7,200-square-foot building, which will be located at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The proposed concrete building would be the first of its kind in New Jersey because it would include a basement, allowing firefighters the chance to learn firsthand how to descend into a chimney-like situation to fight a fire, county officials said. Training for basement fires usually involves a simulated experience. **Scenarios that can be taught include commercial kitchen fires, hazardous materials and incidents in a warehouse, a basement fire within a store in which fire extends upward via shafts, and fires in void spaces, such as those between drop ceilings and attics.** The building has also been designed with roof cutout props for firefighters to practice cutting and where they can learn the advantages of proper ventilation. Doors and security gate props that can be forced

open and cut can be used for learning how to access the fire or people trapped inside.

Source: [http://ebs.gmnews.com/news/2004/0429/Front\\_Page/025.html](http://ebs.gmnews.com/news/2004/0429/Front_Page/025.html)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

27. *April 30, Associated Press* — **U.S. charges four under new anti-spam law.** Federal authorities say they managed to pierce the murky underworld of Internet spam e-mails, filing the first criminal charges under the government's new "can spam" legislation. Court documents in the landmark case in Detroit, MI, describe a nearly inscrutable puzzle of corporate identities, bank accounts and electronic storefronts in one alleged spam operation. At one point, investigators said, packages were sometimes delivered to a restaurant, where a greeter accepted them and passed them along to one defendant. **Officials at the Federal Trade Commission told U.S. postal investigators they had received more than 10,000 complaints about unwanted e-mails sent by the defendants.** Court records identified the defendants as Daniel J. Lin, James J. Lin, Mark M. Sadek and Christopher Chung of West Bloomfield, MI. They were accused of disguising their identities in hundreds of thousands of sales pitches for fraudulent weight-loss products and delivering e-mails by bouncing messages through unprotected relay computers on the Internet. The "can spam" legislation, which went into effect January 1, requires unsolicited e-mails to include a mechanism so recipients can indicate they do not want future mass mailings.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1578981,00.asp>

28. *April 29, eWEEK* — **Microsoft confirms bug in SSL patch. Microsoft Corp. has confirmed in a knowledge base article that its patch for a critical bug can cause some Windows 2000 systems to lock up and fail at boot time.** The patch is for a particularly critical vulnerability of which experts have begun to see exploits in the last few days. The knowledge base article goes by the unusually long name: "Your computer stops responding, you cannot log on to Windows, or your CPU usage for the System process approaches 100 percent after you install the security update that is described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS04-011." The article also gives one specific example, where the Nortel Networks VPN client is installed and the IPSec Policy Agent is set to Manual or Automatic for the startup type. In such cases, the article suggests disabling the IPSec Policy Agent.

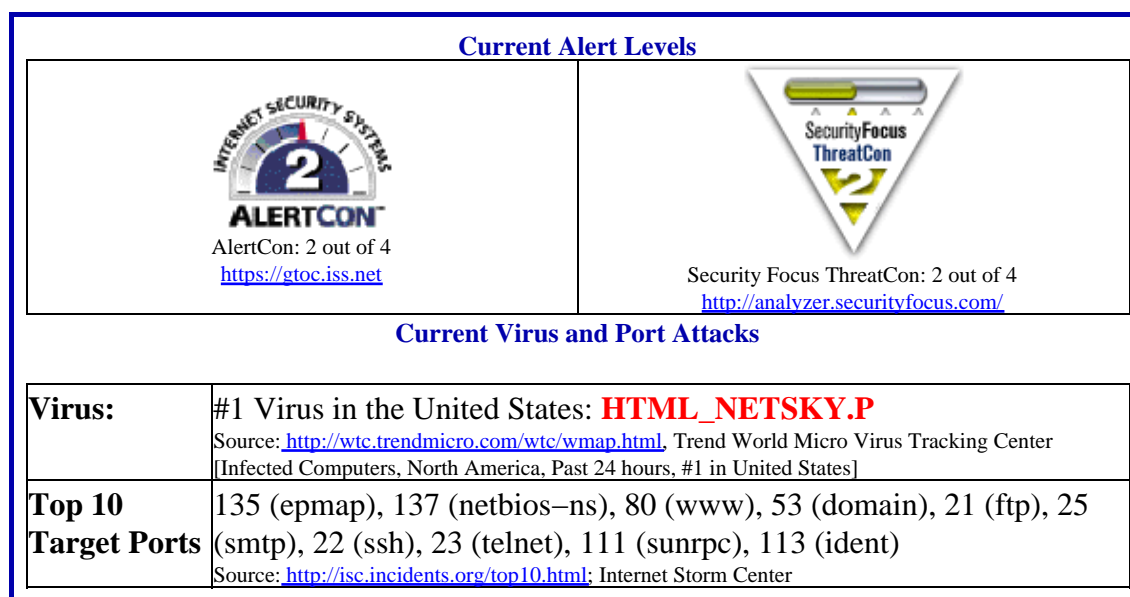
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1578752,00.asp>

29. *April 27, SearchSecurity.com* — **E-mail attack could swamp e-mail servers. Several researchers have identified a new e-mail attack that can be used to swamp enterprise e-mail servers, as well as some secondary systems. Experiments revealed that nearly 60% of general and 30% of Fortune 500 systems and domains could be leveraged for an attack.** Security consultant Stefan Frei, who operates a Swiss e-mail portal, discovered a way that malicious users could swamp e-mail servers and accounts. In early April he reported it in a paper coauthored with software architect Ivo Silvestri and professional services director Gunter Ollmann. In the report, the trio explained how an attack could happen, beginning with a spoofed e-mail originator at the target. A message is sent to multiple invalid recipients. The system sends NDNs flooding back to the spoofed address. The assault can be further multiplied by adding an attachment to the initial message. **The researchers recommend mail server**

changes to lessen the problem—such as not accepting mail for invalid recipients, limiting the maximum number of recipients, generating few and small error messages and validating input data. All of these fixes don't help a target ward off an attack. As Ollmann pointed out, about the only option is to block systems at the ISP level by, perhaps, blacklisting offending mail servers.

Source: [http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,28914,2,sid14\\_gci961512,00.html](http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,28914,2,sid14_gci961512,00.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

30. *April 29, Washington Post* — **Thai forces were ready for attacks.** Thai security forces repulsed a coordinated attack by scores of Islamic fighters against police posts in three provinces on Wednesday, April 29, killing at least 107 of the fighters in an attempt to quell a simmering insurgency in the Muslim-majority south, authorities reported. The assault began before dawn, police said, when the fighters, many of them teenagers armed with guns, knives and machetes, raided about 15 posts only to discover that police had been tipped to the attack and were waiting with superior firepower. . **Thai security officials said the attackers were separatists, describing them as homegrown activists who receive some support and guidance from regional Muslim militant groups, possibly the Jemaah Islamiah underground.** Community leaders in southern Thailand cautioned that the tough response might only aggravate the grievances of the region's residents. **Muslims in the southern provinces have long complained that the government of the majority-Buddhist country discriminates against them in employment and education.** There are long-standing separatist sentiments in the region, part of a Muslim kingdom annexed by Thailand in 1902.  
 Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48573-2004Apr 28.html>

**31. *April 29, WABC (New York)* — Police find stash of weapons at couple's Staten Island home.**

There has been an alarming discovery on Staten Island as police find a huge stockpile of guns, ammo, and homemade bombs inside a couple's home. That couple is now under arrest. Authorities took no chances while searching the home Wednesday night, April 28. Residents in a four-block radius were evacuated for more than three hours as the NYPD bomb squad worked to secure the explosives they reportedly found and remove them from the house. **They claim the home of 40-year-old Albert Boschi was stockpiled with massive amounts of artillery, including 13 guns, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, seven homemade bombs with nails attached and numerous propane tanks.** Police say Boschi is an electrician who lives with his girlfriend and one-year-old son. Authorities say his family describes him as a survivalist who drastically changed after the September 11th attacks. That is when they say he began hoarding weapons and taping off windows.

Source: [http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/news/WABC\\_042904\\_siweaponstash.h tml](http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/news/WABC_042904_siweaponstash.html)

**32. *April 28, Associated Press* — FBI says mall may be target. Federal officials have warned the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) about an unspecified potential threat to a Los Angeles-area mall and said an attack may have been planned for Thursday, April 29.** "As of now, the information is uncorroborated and the credibility of the source is unknown," the police department said in a statement. No specific shopping mall was named, but the warning indicated a mall near the Federal Building in West Los Angeles could be targeted. **The LAPD will increase patrols at shopping malls in the city and asked mall operators to beef up their security while a joint terrorism task force investigates.** The department said it would have no further comment beyond the statement issued Wednesday, April 28. FBI spokesperson Matt McLaughlin said the source of the information was of "undetermined reliability." He continued, "This particular threat, just because of the nature of it, had a little more information in it, albeit unsubstantiated information." He said authorities are obligated to aggressively investigate all threats they can't immediately dismiss. Several areas in and around Los Angeles have been said to be potential targets for terrorists, including movie studios, bridges, the ports and Los Angeles International Airport.

Source: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206~22097~211\\_5563,00.html](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206~22097~211_5563,00.html)

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The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipic.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [info@us-cert.gov](mailto:info@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov).

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